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## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

SP-42/81

9 February 1981

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

Special Assistant, OSR

FROM:

Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT:

Intelligence Assessment, "The Development of Soviet Military Power: Trends Since 1985 and Prospects for the 1980s"

1. The attached assessment, in our view, will make a important contribution to the new Administration as a comprehensive review of trends in past, present and future Soviet military programs. No other single NIE or CIA estimate examines Soviet military power in its totality. For this reason, we believe its review and issuance should receive high priority. [REDACTED]

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2. The draft of the assessment containing some marginal notations which may be useful to you is being returned. We have two major recommendations:

a. Those parts of the overview, summary and main text covering materials on Soviet strategic programs should be revised to conform more closely to the judgments and presentation in NIE 11-3/8-80. Many of the marginal annotations are aimed at this conformity. It seems easier to draw on the findings in the NIE, already coordinated within NFAC, except in those few areas in the NIE where NFAC preferences for language were modified in the interagency process. For example, the attached text correctly characterizes the US-USSR strategic nuclear relationship in the 1980s as one of a continuation of mutual deterrence, whereas, the NIE implies but does not use that particular description.

b. The Overview essentially highlights past trends in Soviet military forces and describes estimated future programs and capabilities. One additional paragraph is suggested between the accounts of past and future trends. At the bottom of page ii and top of page iii, the text acknowledges the problems and challenges facing the Soviets in the 1980s. It is recommended that these problems and challenges be noted in a series of ticks. One of the ticks should cover the exconomic problem discussed on page iv. The stem of the paragraph containing future trends should state in a couple sentences why we conclude that despite these problems, or because of them, the Soviets are going to continue their force modernization. [REDACTED]

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